

Message Text

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TAGS: ECON, ELTN, PEPR, GE, FR
SUBJECT: GDR-FRENCH RELATIONS: PRESS COVERAGE OF
MITTAG VISIT

REF: BERLIN 3551

1. NEUES DEUTSCHLAND (ND) COVERED MITTAG VISIT TO
FRANCE IN PROMINENT FRONT-PAGE ARTICLES JUNE 6, 7 AND
9 WHICH EMPHASIZED ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF VISIT. PRIMARY
ATTENTION WAS GIVEN TO MITTAG DISCUSSIONS WITH BARRE,
FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER DENIAU AND TO DISCUSSIONS AND
SIGNING OF COMMERCIAL CONTRACTS WITH CITROEN AND
CREUSOT-LOIRE.

2. COVERAGE OF FIRST DAY OF VISIT (JUNE 5) CENTERED ON
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GREETING OF MITTAG AT ORLY BY DENIAU AND SUBSEQUENT
ECONOMIC DISCUSSIONS WITH THE DIRECTOR GENERALS OF
CITROEN AND CREUSOT-LOIRE. ND REPORT PORTRAYS MITTAG
AS ACTIVELY PUSHING FOR EXPANDED GDR-FRENCH TRADE
RELATIONS AND QUOTES HIM AS SUPPORTING THE GOAL OF
ATTAINING 4-5 BILLION FRANCS IN BILATERAL TRADE BY
L980. IN REFERRING TO COMMERCIAL NEGOTIATIONS, MITTAG

IS QUOTED AS EMPHASIZING THAT LARGE COMMERCIAL PROJECTS MAY BE REALIZED THROUGH THE "PROMOTION AND SUPPORT" OF THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING CREATION OF "COMMERCIAL AND TRADE PREREQUISITES" FOR GDR EXPORTS UNDER COMPENSATION ARRANGEMENTS TO ENTER FRANCE UNHINDERED BY EXISTING TRADE RESTRICTIONS.

3. DURING JUNE 6 MEETING WITH BARRE, MITTAG IS REPORTED TO HAVE EMPHASIZED THE GDR'S INTENTIONS TO ACHIEVE PROGRESS IN BILATERAL POLITICAL RELATIONS. IN THIS CONNECTION, ND QUOTES MITTAG AS RECALLING THE HELSINKI MEETING BETWEEN HONECKER AND GISCARD D'ESTAING AT WHICH IT WAS AGREED THAT QUESTIONS OF SECURITY AND COOPERATION OCCUPY THE CENTER OF PRESENT RELATIONS. PRESS ALSO REPORTS MITTAG DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, CHABAN-DELMAS, AND MICHEL DURAFOUR, CHAIRMAN OF THE ECONOMIC COUNCIL OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. CONTENT OF THESE CONVERSATIONS IS REPORTED AS CONCERNING DEVELOPMENT OF INTERPARLIAMENTARY RELATIONS.

4. JUNE 9 ND ARTICLE WRAPPED UP VISIT NOTING WITHOUT COMMENT MITTAG DISCUSSIONS WITH BARRE AND CHABAN-DELMAS WHILE FOCUSING IN DETAIL ON COMMERCIAL AGREEMENTS SIGNED WITH CITROEN AND CREUSOT-LOIRE FOR SUPPLY OF PLANTS FOR PRODUCTION OF AUTOMOTIVE DRIVESHAFTS AND FOR PRODUCTION OF ALUMINUM FOIL, RESPECTIVELY. (WESTERN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRESS REPORTS PLACE THE VALUE OF THE CITROEN DEAL AT 730 MILLION MARKS.) REPORTING CITES ADDITIONAL CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS FOR FRENCH IMPORT OF A LONG LIST OF GDR PRODUCTS TO ADD TO THE IMPRESSION THAT VISIT WAS A SIGNIFICANT COMMERCIAL SUCCESS FOR THE GDR.

5. IN ADDITION TO ASPECTS OF CURRENT AND POTENTIAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN FRANCE AND THE GDR, EAST GERMAN MEDIA TREATMENT OF THE VISIT DWELT AT LENGTH ON THE STATEMENTS OF BOTH SIDES REINFORCING THEIR DESIRE FOR BETTER BILATERAL RELATIONS, INCREASED COOPERATION AND THE IMPORTANCE OF IMPROVING THE CONDITIONS FOR PEACE AND SECURITY IN EUROPE. SINCE NONE OF THE FRENCH PARTICIPANTS WAS DIRECTLY QUOTED, IT IS DIFFICULT TO SAY WHAT RELATION NEUES DEUTSCHLAND'S TREATMENT BEARS TO WHAT WAS ACTUALLY SAID. HOWEVER, THE IMPRESSION CONVEYED TO GDR READERS IS ONE OF CONSIDERABLE MEETING OF MINDS BETWEEN VERY HIGH LEVEL GDR AND FRENCH OFFICIALS WITH THE IMPLICATION OF INCREASED BILATERAL COOPERATION IN THE FUTURE. BOLEN

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